

Application Serial No.: 09/443,712

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 48-57 are now pending in the subject U.S. patent application. Claims 1-78 as filed have been subjected to a Restriction/Election Requirement.

Applicants note that in the Restriction Requirement mailed on January 29, 2003, claims Groups III and IV both included claims 62-71, and claims 72-78 were not included in any group. Applicants submit that claim Group IV should have included claims 25-31 and 72-78 and request confirmation of this grouping from the Examiner.

Applicants also note that claim 25 appears in both Groups III and IV in the Restriction Requirement. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 25 should be included in claim Group IV and not Group III. Confirmation from the Examiner is respectfully requested.

In response to the Restriction/Election Requirement, applicants have elected the claims of Group I, claims 1-10 and 48-57, for prosecution at this time.

Applicants hereby reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the unelected subject matter.

CONCLUSIONS

Should there be any minor issues outstanding in this matter, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney. Early passage of the subject application to issue is earnestly solicited.

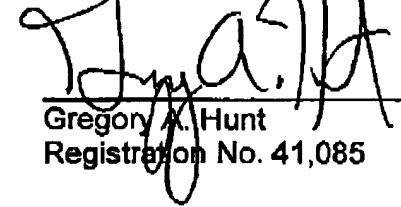
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Deposit Account

Although no fee is believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account Number 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

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